

SECTOR SAN JUAN COMMAND PRIORITIES

July 24, 2007 marks the end of my second year aboard Sector San Juan. Serving alongside the outstanding members of our command - active duty, reserves, civilians and auxiliarists alike – has been the highlight of my career. I have learned a great deal, I have been constantly impressed with what we accomplish, and I have developed a deep respect for the positive manner in which all of you represent our command and the Coast Guard. When I first reported aboard I shared with you my command priorities. The following priorities remain in-tact today and we will continue to focus on these. By doing so we will make this a better command, and we will take care of our people, our families, and ourselves.

#1: *Operate aggressively while placing the appropriate focus on safety.* Our profession takes place in a high-risk environment. At all times we will work to conduct the daily business of AMIO, search and rescue, maritime safety and security, law enforcement, and aids to navigation in an effective and safe manner. We will practice appropriate risk management at all times – both on the water and on the “pier”.

#2: *“Lean forward” operationally and train for success.* Aggressive preparation = optimum readiness and performance. We will “hit it hard and hit it fast” in the daily conduct of our missions while ensuring our people are equipped with the right training and tools, and provided the right support. We will seek and use the right techniques as we work to provide appropriate maritime safety and security for our ports and waterways. Through an aggressive underway and ashore training program we will provide our crews with the skills necessary to lead the way in all mission areas.

#3: *Practice compassionate professionalism.* Seek and take full advantage of opportunities to support our customers, our communities, and our fellow crewmembers. Reach out to the community. As we volunteer as mentors, coaches and scout leaders, “walk the talk” - demonstrate what a positive role model is about. Consistently seek opportunities to take care of one-another. Simply put, do the right thing as we take care of our community, our fellow crewmembers and ourselves.

#4: *Get your priorities straight.* I expect your priorities to be your family, your health, and your job. This will require balance. There will be periods when we will need you on the job “24 x 7”. When that happens I know you will respond and you will excel - that is why you chose the Coast Guard. With that said, leaning forward operationally requires that we take proper care of ourselves . . . spiritually, mentally and physically. Get your priorities straight – we all will benefit from this. If you need assistance, communicate your needs through the chain of command... to help one another we have to communicate with one another.

#5: *Be a leader.* Have the courage to step up and lead, and in leading practice fairness and compassion. Seek opportunities to develop our people - appropriately delegate leadership opportunities. As a unit commander, department head, supervisor or leading petty officer, create opportunities for your people that will allow them to grow. Seek out and provide training opportunities for our people that will provide them the tools needed to serve as effective leaders. You will be serving both this command and the Coast Guard of tomorrow well!

Semper Paratus!

CAPT Jim Tunstall
Commander, Sector San Juan